BEFORE THE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation/Petition	ion) Case #: 1D 2011 70907	
To Revoke Probation Against:) OAH No. 2011110963	
Leenda LaConte 6844 Balcom Avenue)	
Reseda, California 91335		
License No. PT 29164		

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted by the Physical Therapy Board, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California, as its Decision in the above-entitled matter.

This decision shall become effective on July 4,2012.

It is so ordered on June 4, 2012

DEBRAY ALVISO, PT, DPT, PRESIDENT FOR THE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1	Kamala D. Harris
	Attorney General of California
2	GLORIA L. CASTRO Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3	Beneth A. Browne
4.	Deputy Attorney General
4	State Bar No. 202679 California Department of Justice
.5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702
6	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-7816
. [Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-7816 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395
7	Attorneys for Complainant
8	BEFORE THE
9	PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Ì	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation/Petition to Case No. 1D 2011 70907
12	Revoke Probation Against: OAH No. 2011110963
12	LEENDA LA CONTE
13	6844 Balcom Avenue STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER
14	Reseda, California 91335 LICENSE AND ORDER
15	Physical Therapist License No. PT 29164
13	Respondent.
16	
17	
1.0	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties in this
18	
19	proceeding that the following matters are true:
20	<u>PARTIES</u>
21	1. Rebecca Marco (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Physical Therapy
22	Board of California. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in
23	this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Beneth A.
24	Browne, Deputy Attorney General.
25	2. Leenda La Conte (Respondent) is representing herself in this proceeding and has
26	chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.
27	3. On or about February 11, 2004, the Physical Therapy Board of California issued
28	Physical Therapist License No. PT 29164 to Leenda La Conte. The Physical Therapist License

was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 1D 2011 70907 and expired on October 31, 2011.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 1D 2011 70907 was filed before the Physical Therapy Board of California (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on September 29, 2011. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation. A copy of Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 1D 2011 70907 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 1D 2011 70907. Respondent also has carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation; the right to be represented by counsel, at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 1D 2011 70907, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders her Physical Therapist License No. PT 29164 for the Board's formal acceptance.

9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Physical Therapist License without further process.

CONTINGENCY

- 10. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Physical Therapy Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Physical Therapy Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physical Therapist License No. PT 29164, issued to Respondent Leenda La Conte, is surrendered and accepted by the Physical Therapy Board of California.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physical Therapist License and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Physical Therapy Board of California.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physical Therapist in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

28 | 7

3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her pocket license and, if one was issued, her wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.

- 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. 1D 2011 70907 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- 5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation, No. 1D 2011 70907 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.
- 6. If Respondent can prove participation and completion of a drug and alcohol treatment program lasting at least one year, then good cause is shown and a petition for reinstatement may be filed after two years pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2661.7.
- 7. Respondent shall pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$2,000.00 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physical Therapist License. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Physical Therapy Board of California.

DATED: <u>5/10/2012</u>

HONDALA CONTE

Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Physical Therapy Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs. Dated: May 10, 2012 Respectfully submitted, KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California GLORIA L. CASTRO Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Bereth A Browne

BENETH A. BROWNE Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

LA2011504054 60778094.doc

Exhibit A

·	
a	KAMALA D. HARRIS
	Attorney General of California 5TATE OF CALIFORNIA
2	GLORIA L. CASTRO Supervising Deputy Attorney General Supervising CA Secretary Det 29,2011
3	DENETH A BROWNE
	Deputy Attorney General By C- Swamen To ANALYSI.
4	State Bar No. 202679 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702
5	Los Angeles, CA 90013
	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-7816 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395
6.	Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 Attorneys for Complainant
7	
	BEFORE THE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
8	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ا و	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	In the Matter of the Petition to Revoke Case No. 1D 2011 70907
11	Probation Against,
-10	
12 .	LEENDA LA CONTE, P.T. 6844 Balcom Avenue PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION
13	Reseda, California 91335,
-14	
14	Physical Therapist License No. PT 29164
15	Respondent.
16	
17	
18	Complainant alleges:
19	PARTIES
20	1. Rebecca Marco (Complainant) brings this Petition to Revoke Probation solely in her
21	official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Physical Therapy Board of California,
.22	Department of Consumer Affairs.
23	
24	
25	Therapist License was in effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire
26	on October 31, 2011, unless renewed.
27	
•	
28	
	1

JURISDICTION

- 3. In a disciplinary action entitled In the Matter of Accusation Against Leenda La Conte, Case No. 1D 2009 67615, the Physical Therapy Board of California, issued a decision, effective July 25, 2011, in which Respondent's Physical Therapist License was revoked. However, the revocation was stayed and Respondent's Physical Therapist License was placed on probation for a period of four (4) years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of that decision is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated by reference.
- 4. This Petition to Revoke Probation is brought before the Physical Therapy Board of California (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the decision attached as Exhibit A and following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 5. Section 2609 of the Code states: "The board shall issue, suspend, and revoke licenses and approvals to practice physical therapy as provided in this chapter."
 - 6. Section 2666 of the Code states:
 - "(a) Criteria for acceptance into the diversion program shall include all of the following:
- (1) The applicant shall be licensed as a physical therapist or approved as a physical therapist assistant by the board and shall be a resident of California.
- (2) The applicant shall be found to abuse dangerous drugs or alcoholic beverages in a manner which may affect his or her ability to practice physical therapy safely or competently.
- (3) The applicant shall have voluntarily requested admission to the program or shall be accepted into the program in accordance with terms and conditions resulting from a disciplinary action.
- (4) The applicant shall agree to undertake any medical or psychiatric examination ordered to evaluate the applicant for participation in the program.
- (5) The applicant shall cooperate with the program by providing medical information, disclosure authorizations, and releases of liability as may be necessary for participation in the program.

(6) The applicant shall agree in writing to cooperate with all elements of the treatment program designed for him or her.

Any applicant may be denied participation in the program if the board, the program manager, or a diversion evaluation committee determines that the applicant will not substantially benefit from participation in the program or that the applicant's participation in the program creates too great a risk to the public health, safety, or welfare.

- (b) A participant may be terminated from the program for any of the following reasons:
- (1) The participant has successfully completed the treatment program.
- (2) The participant has failed to comply with the treatment program designated for him or her.
 - (3) The participant fails to meet any of the criteria set forth in subdivision (a) or (c).
- (4) It is determined that the participant has not substantially benefited from participation in the program or that his or her continued participation in the program creates too great a risk to the public health, safety, or welfare. Whenever an applicant is denied participation in the program or a participant is terminated from the program for any reason other than the successful completion of the program, and it is determined that the continued practice of physical therapy by that individual creates too great a risk to the public health, safety, and welfare, that fact shall be reported to the executive officer of the board and all documents and information pertaining to and supporting that conclusion shall be provided to the executive officer. The matter may be referred for investigation and disciplinary action by the board. Each physical therapist or physical therapy assistant who requests participation in a diversion program shall agree to cooperate with the recovery program designed for him or her. Any failure to comply with that program may result in termination of participation in the program.

The diversion evaluation committee shall inform each participant in the program of the procedures followed in the program, of the rights and responsibilities of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the program, and the possible results of noncompliance with the program.

- (c) In addition to the criteria and causes set forth in subdivision (a), the board may set forth in its regulations additional criteria for admission to the program or causes for termination from the program."
 - 7. Section 2667 of the Code states:

"All board and diversion evaluation committee records and records of proceedings and participation of a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant in a program shall be confidential and are not subject to discovery or subpoena."

- 8. Section 2669 of the Code states that participation in a diversion program shall not be a defense to any disciplinary action which may be taken by the board. This section does not preclude the board from commencing disciplinary action against a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who is terminated unsuccessfully from the program under this section. That disciplinary action may not include as evidence any confidential information.
 - 9. Section 2261.5 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, as follows::
- "(a) In any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, the board may request the administrative law judge to direct any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.
- "(c) When the payment directed in an order for payment of costs is not made by the licensee, the board may enforce the order of payment by bringing an action in any appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee directed to pay costs."
- "d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment."

PROBATION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

10. Term and Condition 16 of Respondent's probation, attached as Exhibit A, states: "Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation monitoring program."

11. Term and Condition 25 of Respondent's probation, attached as Exhibit A, states:

"If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final."

12. Term and Condition 11 of Respondent's probation, attached as Exhibit A, states:

"Within 15 days from the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall enroll and participate in the Board's Diversion Program at Respondent's cost until the Diversion Program determines that participation in the Diversion Program is no longer necessary. Failure to comply with requirements of the Diversion Program, terminating the program without permission or being expelled for cause shall constitute a violation of probation by Respondent and Respondent shall be immediately suspended from the practice of physical therapy.

"Respondent shall comply with all components of the Diversion Program. This includes the fact that the Board may receive reports on all aspects of Respondent's participation in the Diversion Program. Respondent shall sign a release authorizing the Diversion Program to report all aspects of the diversion program as requested by the Board or its designee.

"Failure to comply with any component of this condition as specified above is a violation of probation."

CAUSE TO REVOKE PROBATION

(Violation of Probation Term and Condition 11)

- 13. Respondent's probation is subject to revocation because she failed to comply with Probation Condition 11, referenced above. The facts and circumstances regarding this violation are as follows:
- A. On or about August 15, 2011, Respondent was noncompliant with, withdrew from and was terminated from the Board's diversion program.

2

4

5

7

8

9 10

11

12 13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20

21 22

23

24

2526

LA2011504054 50970095.doc

27

28

DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATION

14. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent,

Complainant alleges that on or about June 23, 2011, in a prior disciplinary action entitled In the

Matter of the Accusation Against Leenda La Conte before the Physical Therapy Board of

California, in Case No. 1D 2009 67615, Respondent's license was revoked but the revocation was

stayed and she was placed on probation for four (4) years with various terms and conditions.

That decision is now final and is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.

<u>PRAYER</u>

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Physical Therapy Board of California issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking the probation that was granted by the Physical Therapy Board of California in Case No. 1D 2009 67615 and imposing the disciplinary order that was stayed thereby revoking Physical Therapist License No. PT 29164 issued to Leenda La Conte;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Physical Therapist License No. PT 29164, issued to Leenda La Conte;
- 3. Ordering her to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of monitoring.
 - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: September 29,2011

REBECCA MARCO

Interim Executive Officer

Physical Therapy Board of California

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

Exhibit A

Decision and Order

Physical Therapy Board of California Case No. 1D 2009 67615

BEFORE THE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 1D 2009 67615

LEENDA LA CONTE, PT 6844 Balcom Avenue

OAH No. 2010120047

Reseda, California 91335

Physical Therapist License number 29164,

Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Physical Therapy Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on July 25, 2511

It is so ORDERED June 23, 2011

FOR THE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD/OF

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

.	
1	KAMALA D. HARRIS
2	Attorney General of California ROBERT MCKIM BELL
	Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3	RANDALL R. MURPHY Deputy Attorney General
4	State Bar Number 165851
_	300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702
. 5	Los Angeles, California 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-2493
6	Facsimile: (213) 897-9395
7	Attorneys for Complainant
.	BEFORE THE
8	PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
9	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	
	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 1D 2009 67615
11	OAH No. 2010120047
12	LEENDA LA CONTE, PT
13	6844 Balcom Avenue STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
* 1.0 T	Reseda, California 91335 DISCIPLINARY ORDER
14	Physical Therapist License
15	number 29164,
. '	Respondent.
. 16	
. 17 .	
18	In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with the public
19	interest and the responsibility of the Physical Therapy Board of California of the Department of
20	Consumer Affairs, the parties hereby agree to the following Stipulated Settlement and
21	Disciplinary Order which will be submitted to the Board for approval and adoption as the final
22	disposition of the Accusation.
23	PARTIES
24	1. Steven K. Hartzell (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Physical Therapy
25	Board of California (Board). He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is
.26	represented in this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by
27	Randall R. Murphy, Deputy Attorney General:
28	

28 | //

- 2. Respondent Leenda La Conte, Physical Therapist (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Mary E. Work, whose address is: 1334 Park View Avenue, Suite 100 Manhattan Beach, California, 90266.
- 3. On or about February 11, 2004, the Board issued Physical Therapist'License number 29164 to Respondent. That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation number 1D 2009 67615 and will expire on October 31, 2011, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation number 1D 2009 67615 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 23, 2010. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation number 1D 2009 67615 is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WATVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation number 1D 2009 67615. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision, and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation number 1D 2009 67615.
- 9. Respondent agrees that her Physical Therapy License is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physical Therapy License Number 29164 issued to Respondent Leenda La Conte, Physical Therapist (Respondent) is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for four (4) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE - HOME CARE The Respondent shall not provide

.28

physical therapy services in a patient's home.

Failure to comply with any component of this condition as specified above is a violation of probation.

- 2. <u>RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE SOLO PRACTICE</u> The Respondent shall be prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of physical therapy.
- 3. <u>RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER PHYSICAL</u>
 THERAPIST REQUIRED

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS: The Respondent shall be prohibited from working any shift in which there is no other physical therapist with an unrestricted license on duty.

- 4. <u>RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE PROHIBITION OF SELF EMPLOYMENT OR OWNERSHIP</u> Respondent shall not be the sole proprietor or partner in the ownership of any business that offers physical therapy services. Respondent shall not be a Board member or an officer or have a majority interest in any corporation that offers or provides physical therapy services.
- 5. <u>RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE-PROHIBITION OF DIRECT BILLING OF</u>
 THIRD-PARTY PAYERS Respondent shall not have final approval over any physical therapy billings submitted to any third-party payers in any employment.
- 6. RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE NO EMPLOYMENT OR SUPERVISION OF
 PHYSICAL THERAPIST LICENSE APPLICANTS, PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

 LICENSE APPLICANTS Respondent shall not supervise any physical therapist license applicants, or physical therapist assistant applicants during the entire period of probation.

 Respondent shall terminate any such supervisory relationship in existence on the effective date of this probation.
- 7. RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE ADMINISTRATION OR POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES Respondent shall not administer or possess any controlled substances as defined in the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act. This prohibition does not apply to medications lawfully prescribed to Respondent for a bona fide illness or condition by a practitioner licensed to prescribe such medications.

8. PROHIBITION OF POSSESSION OR USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
Respondent shall abstain completely from the personal use or possession of controlled substances.
as defined by Section 4211 of the Business and Professions Code, or any drugs requiring a
prescription. This prohibition does not apply to medications lawfully prescribed to Respondent
for a bona fide illness or condition by a practitioner licensed to prescribe such medications.

Failure to comply with any component of this condition as specified above is a violation of probation.

9. <u>PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF ALCOHOL</u> Respondent shall abstain completely from the use of alcoholic beverages.

Failure to comply with any component of this condition as specified above is a violation of probation.

10. <u>BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING</u> Respondent shall immediately submit to biological fluid testing, at Respondent's cost, upon the request of the Board or its designee.

Failure to comply with any component of this condition as specified above is a violation of probation.

DIVERSION PROGRAM Within 15 days from the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall enroll and participate in the Board's Diversion Program at Respondent's cost until the Diversion Program determines that participation in the Diversion Program is no longer necessary. Failure to comply with requirements of the Diversion Program, terminating the program without permission or being expelled for cause shall constitute a violation of probation by Respondent and Respondent shall be immediately suspended from the practice of physical therapy.

Respondent will not qualify to petition for termination of probation until the Board has received written notice from the Diversion Program of Respondent's completion of the Diversion Program, the probation will automatically be extended until the Board receives written notice for the Diversion Program of Respondent's completion.

Respondent shall comply with all components of the Diversion Program. This includes the fact that the Board may receive reports on all aspects of Respondent's participation in the

Diversion Program. Respondent shall sign a release authorizing the Diversion Program to report all aspects of the diversion program as requested by the Board or its designee.

In the event the Board's diversion program is unavailable, Respondent shall participate in a Diversion Program approved by the Board or its designee.

Failure to comply with any component of this condition as specified above is a violation of probation.

- 12. OBEY ALL LAWS Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, and statutes and regulations governing the practice, inspections and reporting, of physical therapy in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation.
- 13. <u>COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERS OF A COURT</u> The Respondent shall be in compliance with any valid order of a court. Being found in contempt of any court order is a violation of probation.
- 14. <u>COMPLIANCE WITH CRIMINAL PROBATION AND PAYMENT OF</u>

 RESTITUTION Respondent shall not violate any terms and conditions of criminal probation and shall be in compliance with any restitution ordered, payments or other orders.
- 15. <u>OUARTERLY REPORTS</u> Respondent shall submit guarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.
- 16. <u>PROBATION MONITORING PROGRAM COMPLIANCE</u> Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation monitoring program.
- 17. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u> Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board, or its designee, upon request at various intervals.
- 18. NOTIFICATION OF PROBATIONER STATUS TO EMPLOYERS The Respondent shall notify all present or future employers of the reason for and the terms and conditions of the probation by providing a copy of the Initial Probationary License, Statement of Issues, Accusation and the Decision and Order, or Stipulated Settlement to the employer, and submit written employer confirmation of receipt to the Board within 10 days. The notification(s) shall include the name, address and phone number of the employer, and, if different, the name,

address and phone number of the work location.

- 19. <u>NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS</u> The Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, of any and all name and/or address changes within ten (10) days.
- 20. <u>RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE TEMPORARY SERVICES AGENCIES</u> The applicant's work for a temporary services agency or registry shall be limited as follows:
 - a. Applicant shall be limited to work for one (1) temporary service agency or registry;
 - b. This work must be approved by the probation monitor;
 - c. Applicant must disclose this disciplinary proceeding as described above in Condition 18, to the temporary service agency or registry;
 - d. Applicant must disclose this disciplinary proceeding, as described above in Condition 18, to the supervisor at the facility where physical therapy care is being performed.

Applicant must notify his/her probation monitor or Board's designee, in writing, of any change in registry or temporary service. The Applicant must have written approval by the probation monitor prior to commencing work at a new registry or temporary service agency.

- 21. RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR OF PHYSICAL
 THERAPY STUDENT INTERNS OR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL THERAPIST
 LICENSE APPLICANTS PROHIBITED Respondent shall not supervise any physical therapy student interns or foreign educated physical therapist license applicants during the entire period of probation. Respondent shall terminate any such supervisory relationship in existence on the effective date of this probation.
- 22. <u>PROHIBITED USE OF ALIASES</u> Respondent may not use aliases and shall be prohibited from using any name which is not her legally-recognized name or based upon a legal change of name.
- 23. <u>INTERMITTENT WORK</u> If the Respondent works less than 192 hours as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant in the physical therapy profession in a period of three months, those months shall not be counted toward satisfaction of the probationary period. The

2.1

.28

Respondent shall notify the Board if she works less than 192 hours in a three month period.

- 24. TOLLING OF PROBATION The period of probation shall run only during the time Respondent is practicing or performing physical therapy within California. If, during probation, Respondent does not practice or perform within California, Respondent is required to immediately notify the probation monitor in writing of the date that Respondent is practicing or performing physical therapy out of state, and the date of return, if any. Practicing or performing physical therapy by the respondent in California prior to notification to the Board of the Respondent's return will not be credited toward completion of probation.
- 25. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u> If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- OTHER REASONS Following the effective date of this probation; if Respondent ceases practicing or performing physical therapy due to retirement, health or other reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate the Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license, the terms and conditions of probation shall be tolled until such time as the license is no longer renewable, the Respondent makes application for the renewal of the tendered license or makes application for a new license.
 - 27. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.
 - 28. CALIFORNIA LAW EXAMINATION WRITTEN EXAM ON THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OR PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICAL

 THERAPY Within 90 days of the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall take and pass

the Board's written examination on the laws and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy in California. If Respondent fails to pass the examination, Respondent shall be suspended from the practice of physical therapy until a repeat examination has been successfully passed. PRACTICE OR PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY WHILE ON PROBATION It is not contrary to the public interest for the Respondent to practice and/or perform physical therapy under the probationary conditions specified in the disciplinary order. Accordingly, it is not the intent of the Board that this order, the fact that the Respondent has been disciplined, or that the Respondent is on probation, shall be used as the sole basis for any third party payer to remove Respondent from any list of approved providers. HI1.11 11.1 7./1 III

Feb 28 2000 11:47PM HP LASERJET FAX

25/27/2011 89:25

J.

2

:5

.

7

8

ġ

10

11 12

13

14

91.854681.07

MHORKESO

P. 1 PAGE 82/82

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the shows Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Mary E. Work. I understand the stipulation and the affect it will have on my Physical Therapy license. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Physical Therapy Board of California.

DATED: 5/27/2011

LEENDA LA CON

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Leenda La Conte, Physical Therapy the acrine and conditions and other mailless commined in the above Stipulated Semiement and

Disciplinary Order. Lapprove its form and content.

DATED:

MARY E WORK

13

17

18

19

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Physical Thompy Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

.20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Dated: May 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Kamala D. Harris Anomey General of California ROBERT MCKIMBELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General

RANDALL R. MURPHY
Deputy Attorney General
Assorneys for Complainans

27 | LA2009308948 28 | 50905865,docx

ACCEPTANCE 1 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully 2 discussed it with my attorney, Mary E. Work. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physical Therapy license. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary 4 Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order 5 of the Physical Therapy Board of California. 6 DATED: LEENDA LA CONTE, PT Respondent 8 9 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Leenda La Conte, Physical Therapy the 1.0 terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and 11 Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content. 12 DATED: 13 MARY E. WORK 14 Attorney for Respondent 15 ENDORSEMENT 16 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully 17 submitted for consideration by the Physical Therapy Board of California of the Department of 18 19 Consumer Affairs. 20 Respectfully submitted, Dated: May 37, 2011. 21 KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California 22 ROBERT MCKIM BELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General 23 24 25. RAYBALL R. MURPHY Deputy Attorney General 26 Attorneys for Complainant

27

28

LA2009508948 50905865.docx

10

עבוד אינד הייניים הייניים אינד הייניים אינד אינד הייניים א אינד הייניים א אינד הייניים א אינד הייניים א אינד הייניים א

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 1D 2009 67615

	EDI	AUND G. BROWN JR.
	Atto	Orney General of California JETH A. BROWNE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2	Det	outy Attorney General PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
3	C+at	te Bar No. 202679 SACRAMENTO, CA . \u\\\23. 2010
.4	3.0	os Angeles, California 90013
	1 70	elenhone: (213) 897-7810
5	Fa	acsimile: (213) 897-9395 orneys for Complainant
6	144.64	Office ye for the second secon
	 :	BEFORE THE
7		PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
8 .		DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA
		BIAIL OF CALIFORNIA
9		
10		Case No. 1D 2009 67615
17.	In	The Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 1D 2009 67615
	1 1.1	EENDA LA CONTE, PT
12	68	844 Balcon Avenue eseda, California 91335 ACCUSATION
13	. H	
	∥ P	hysical Therapist License No. 29164,
14		Respondent:
15	5	
16	s	
	\prod	
1'	7 ∥	Complainant alleges:
1	8	PARTIES
· 1	9	1. Steven K. Hartzell (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in his official capacity
*. 1		as the Executive Officer of the Physical Therapy Board of California (Board).
*	- -	2. On or about February 11, 2004, the Board issued Physical Therapist License number
	21	2. On of about residualy 11, 2001, and 21 force and effect at all times
	22	29164 to Leenda La Conte (Respondent). The license was in full force and effect at all times
	23	relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on October 31, 2011, unless renewed.
•	24	<u> JURISDICTION</u>
•	25	3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following
	26	See the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated
		laws. All section references are to the Bushiess and Tozzara
	27	111
	28	\parallel $_{III}$
	<i>:</i>	1.

2.7

Section 2602 of the Code states:

"The Physical Therapy Board of California, hereafter referred to as the board, shall enforce and administer this chapter. . . ."

5. Section 2609 of the Code states:

"The board shall issue, suspend, and revoke licenses and approvals to practice physical therapy as provided in this chapter."

6. Section 2660 of the Code states:

"The board may, after the conduct of appropriate proceedings under the Administrative Procedure Act, suspend for not more than 12 months, or revoke, or impose probationary conditions upon any license, certificate, or approval issued under this chapter for unprofessional conduct that includes, but is not limited to, one or any combination of the following causes:

- "(d) Conviction of a crime that substantially relates to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. The record of conviction or a certified copy thereof shall be conclusive evidence of that conviction.
- "(h) Conviction of a violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or of the Medical Practice Act, or violating, or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violating of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter or of the Medical Practice Act.

7. Section 2239 of the Code states:

"(a) The use or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, of any controlled substance; or the use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or of alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely or more than one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section, or any

combination thereof, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.

- (b) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section. . "
 - 8. Section 2661.5 of the Code states:
- "(a) In any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the board, the board may request the administrative law judge to direct any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of the investigation and prosecution of the case.
 - "(d) In any judicial action for the recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.

9. Section 2661 of the Code states:

"A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge of a felony or of any offense which substantially relates to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physical therapist is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this article. The board may order the license suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license, when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing that person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty; or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment."

- 10. Section 2666 of the Code states:
- "(a) Criteria for acceptance into the diversion program shall include all of the following:
- "(1) The applicant shall be licensed as a physical therapist or approved as a physical therapist assistant by the board and shall be a resident of California.

- "(2) The applicant shall be found to abuse dangerous drugs or alcoholic beverages in a manner which may affect his or her ability to practice physical therapy safely or competently.
- "(3) The applicant shall have voluntarily requested admission to the program or shall be accepted into the program in accordance with terms and conditions resulting from a disciplinary action.
- "(4) The applicant shall agree to undertake any medical or psychiatric examination ordered to evaluate the applicant for participation in the program.
- "(5) The applicant shall cooperate with the program by providing medical information, disclosure authorizations, and releases of liability as may be necessary for participation in the program.
- "(6) The applicant shall agree in writing to cooperate with all elements of the treatment program designed for him or her. Any applicant may be denied participation in the program if the board, its designee, or a diversion evaluation committee, as the case may be, determines that the applicant will not substantially benefit from participation in the program or that the applicant's participation in the program creates too great a risk to the public health, safety, or welfare.
 - "(b) A participant may be terminated from the program for any of the following reasons:
 - "(1) The participant has successfully completed the treatment program.
 - "(2) The participant has failed to comply with the treatment program designated for him or
 - "(3) The participant fails to meet any of the criteria set forth in subdivision (a) or (c).
 - "(4) It is determined that the participant has not substantially benefitted from participation in the program or that his or her continued participation in the program creates too great a risk to the public health, safety, or welfare. Whenever an applicant is denied participation in the program or a participant is terminated from the program for any reason other than successful completion of the program, and it is determined that the continued practice of physical therapy by that individual creates too great a risk to the public health, safety, and welfare, that fact shall be reported to the executive officer of the board and all documents and information pertaining to and supporting that conclusion shall be provided to the executive officer. The matter may be referred

for investigation and disciplinary action by the board. Each physical therapist or physical therapy assistant who requests participation in a diversion program shall agree to cooperate with the recovery program designed for him or her. Any failure to comply with that program may result in termination of participation in the program. The diversion evaluation committee shall inform each participant in the program of the procedures followed in the program, of the rights and responsibilities of a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant in the program, and the possible results of noncompliance with the program.

- "(c) In addition to the criteria and causes set forth in subdivision (a), the board may set forth in its regulations additional criteria for admission to the program or causes for termination from the program."
 - 11. Section 2667 of the Code states:

"All board and diversion evaluation committee records and records of proceedings and participation of a physical therapist or physical therapy assistant in a program shall be confidential and are not subject to discovery or subpoena."

- 12. Section 2669 of the Code states that participation in a diversion program shall not be a defense to any disciplinary action which may be taken by the board. This section does not preclude the board from commencing disciplinary action against a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who is terminated unsuccessfully from the program under this section. That disciplinary action may not include as evidence any confidential information.
 - 13. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1399.20, states:

"For the purposes of denial, suspension or revocation of a license, pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license under the Physical Therapy Practice Act if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a person to perform the functions authorized by the license or approval in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (d) Whether the licensee has complied with any terms of parole, probation, restitution or any other sanctions lawfully imposed against such person.
- (e) If applicable, evidence of expungement proceedings pursuant to Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.
 - (f) Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the licensee."
 - 18. Section 493 of the Code states:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in a proceeding conducted by a board within the department pursuant to law to deny an application for a license or to suspend or revoke a license or otherwise take disciplinary action against a person who holds a license, upon the ground that the applicant or the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of the licensee in question, the record of conviction of the crime shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred, but only of that fact, and the board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of the licensee in question.

"As used in this section, 'license' includes 'certificate,' 'permit,' 'authority,' and 'registration."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(2003 Conviction for Driving Under the Influence)

- 19. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2660, subdivision (d) and 490 in that she was convicted of a crime substantially related to the practice of physical therapy, to wit, driving while having a blood-alcohol content exceeding 0.08 percent, in violation of California Vehicle Code section 23152, subd. (b), a misdemeanor. She was convicted in a criminal proceeding entitled *People of the State of California v. Leenda Maria La Conte* in Los Angeles Superior Court, Case Number 3VN02757, Respondent was convicted on or around August 13, 2003.
 - 20. Pursuant to a plea agreement, Respondent's sentence was suspended. She was placed on summary probation for a period of thirty-six months (three years) with various terms and

7.4

conditions, including completing a three month licensed first-offender alcohol and drug education and counseling program, paying fines and restitution, completing a Hospital and Morgue program and an essay, and, for ninety days, restricting her driving to going to and from work and/or program.

21. Respondent's 2003 conviction was based on her driving on or around June 28, 2003. She was driving home from a friend's house with a blood alcohol content of 0.17 percent at 85 miles per hour.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(2009 Conviction for Driving Under the Influence)

- 22. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under sections 2660, subdivision (d) and 490 in that she was convicted of a crime substantially related to the practice of physical therapy; to wit, violation of California Vehicle Code section 23152, subd. (a), a misdemeanor. On or around July 17, 2009, in proceedings entitled *People vs. Leenda Maria Laconte*, in Ventura County Superior Court, Case Number 2008031185MA, Respondent was convicted of violating Vehicle Code section 23152(a), driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Court also found true the enhancements of: (1) driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.20 percent or more, and (2) driving with a blood alcohol content of .15 or more.
 - 23. Based on a plea agreement, imposition of sentence was suspended and Respondent was placed on formal probation for sixty months (five years) of formal probation. Terms of the probation include: reporting to and being under the supervision of a probation officer; maintaining regular employment as approved by the probation officer; not leaving her county of residence for over seventy-two hours or changing her residence without reporting to her probation officer; not leaving the state of California without permission from her probation officer; participating in treatment program designated by her probation officer; not drinking or possessing any alcoholic beverages; not being where alcohol is the chief item of sale; submitting to complete tests of her breath, blood, urine when requested to by a peace officer or probation officer; reporting immediately to the "Drinking Driver Program (Multiple Conviction Program previously SB 38)"; consenting to a search of her person, residence, vehicle, business or any

personal or real property under her control for alcoholic beverages by a probation officer or law enforcement officer; not driving or owning any motor vehicle unless it is equipped with a certified, calibrated and functioning ignition interlock device; not driving any vehicle until obtaining a valid license; paying numerous fines, penalties and restitution; serving thirty days in the Ventura County Jail.

24. The circumstances of the 2009 conviction are alleged to be that on or about June 21, 2008, Respondent was at a friend's house. She drank a lot of wine and some vodka. In the morning hours of June 22, 2008, she drove her vehicle while having a blood alcohol content exceeding 0.20 percent. She drove through a canyon and caused a car accident. Her vehicle landed upside down. She was pulled from her vehicle's window and taken to the hospital. She required a spinal fusion of five vertebrae.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Bus. & Prof. Code section 2239(a): Conviction of More Than One Misdemeanor)

25. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action under sections section 2239, subdivision (a) for having been convicted of more than one misdemeanor involving the use, consumption of alcoholic beverages, as set forth in the First and Second Causes for Discipline.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Bus. & Prof. Code section 2239: Excessive Use of Drugs/Alcohol in 2003 and 2008)

26. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action under sections section 2660, subdivision (h) in that she violated section 2239 by using alcoholic beverages to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to herself, any other person or the public, more specifically by twice operating a motor vehicle on a public roadway while under the influence of alcohol. The circumstances are as set forth in the First and Second Causes for Discipline.

24 /

25 | 111

26 111.

27 //

28 //

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Physical Therapy Board of California issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending PT Number 29164, issued Leenda La Conte.
- 2. Ordering her to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on probation, the costs of monitoring.
 - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: July 23, 2010

STEVENK, HARTZELL

Executive Officer

Physical Therapy Board of California

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

LA2009508948 50585539.doc

15

.]

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

1.0

11

12

13.

14

16

17

18

19

20

21

22.

23

24

25

26

27